

Dear Ms. Monroe,

Regarding SEC Docket #2016-01 ... as a resident of Pelham NH and as a member of the Pelham Pipeline Awareness Outreach Subcommittee, I would like to respectfully request that the deadline for submissions regarding the SEC request for advance public comment on rules related to Certificates of site and facility, Site 300, be extended beyond today, February 29, 2016. I also request a public hearing regarding these proposed rules before their adoption. This would allow citizens of New Hampshire sufficient opportunity to contribute to this rule making process. We in Pelham were not made aware of this until Feb 19 and our subcommittee could not meet until Feb 25th, only one business day before today, the 29th. School vacation week has also added to the complexity of making sure that the community representatives, including our town boards, who should participate with us, are involved in this process.

The current Rule 300 standards provide a framework for regulation of typical projects such as wind farms, but they fall vastly short when considering a project of the scope, magnitude and potential impacts of high pressure gas pipelines and the associated infrastructure associated with it, such as compressor stations, pigging stations, metering stations, take stations, and valves. No single category of infrastructure poses the possible risks to health, safety, water, air quality, wildlife, environment, property, culture and tourism, as that form of development presented by gas pipelines.

I am very concerned that any rules regarding the assessment of these kinds of projects must include not only an Environmental Impact Assessment, but a Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment as well. I ask that you carefully consider the recommendations and comments put forth to you by Richard Husband of Litchfield and those provided by the Mason Pipeline Committee.

I would however like to have the opportunity for our subcommittee in Pelham to carefully review your request and make informed comments as well beyond these. We have been frustrated by the short deadline, not only because it has prevented us from having adequate time to prepare our statements, but it has not allowed time for us to engage in conversations with our Pelham Board of Selectmen who meet only twice a month, or our planning, conservation or health departments, hence the request for an extension of this deadline beyond today.

I understand that the SEC bears the heavy burden of responsibility for regulating the shape of New Hampshire's energy landscape for future generations. I ask that you permit time for proper consideration and input.

Respectfully,

Samuel J. Thomas  
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